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FIGHTIN' ARMY
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FIGHTIN' ARMY
GET BACK -
AVALANCHE!
00036

IT WAS KOREA, 1951, AND THE CHINESE COMMIES WERE USING RUSSIAN TANKS AND RUSSIAN WEAPONS.. THEY HAD THE AMERICANS OUTNUMBERED... THEY'D MAULED THEM BADLY IN BATTLE AFTER BATTLE... AND, NOW, THIS COMPANY OF G.I.'S WAS DUG IN.. WAITING FOR THE FINAL ONSLAUGHT AT DAWN!
IT WAS DECEMBER .. THE THERMOMETER HOVERED AROUND ZERO... AND THE WIND OUT OF THE NORTH DROVE ICY SNOW INTO THEIR EXHAUSTED EYES AS THEY SCANNED THE SLOPE FOR THE FIRST COMMUNIST WAVES...
WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?
D-5056
MOST OF THESE MEN ARE DRAFTEES .. RECENTLY TRAINED - INEXPERIENCED IN COMBAT.. NON-HEROIC TYPES WHO'D LED SHELTERED LIVES IN A FAR-OFF LAND CALLED AMERICA! NOW, THEY WILL BE TESTED.... HOW WILL THEY FARE?
I'LL BET THERE'S A MILLION COMMIES DOWN THERE!

FIGHTIN' ARMY

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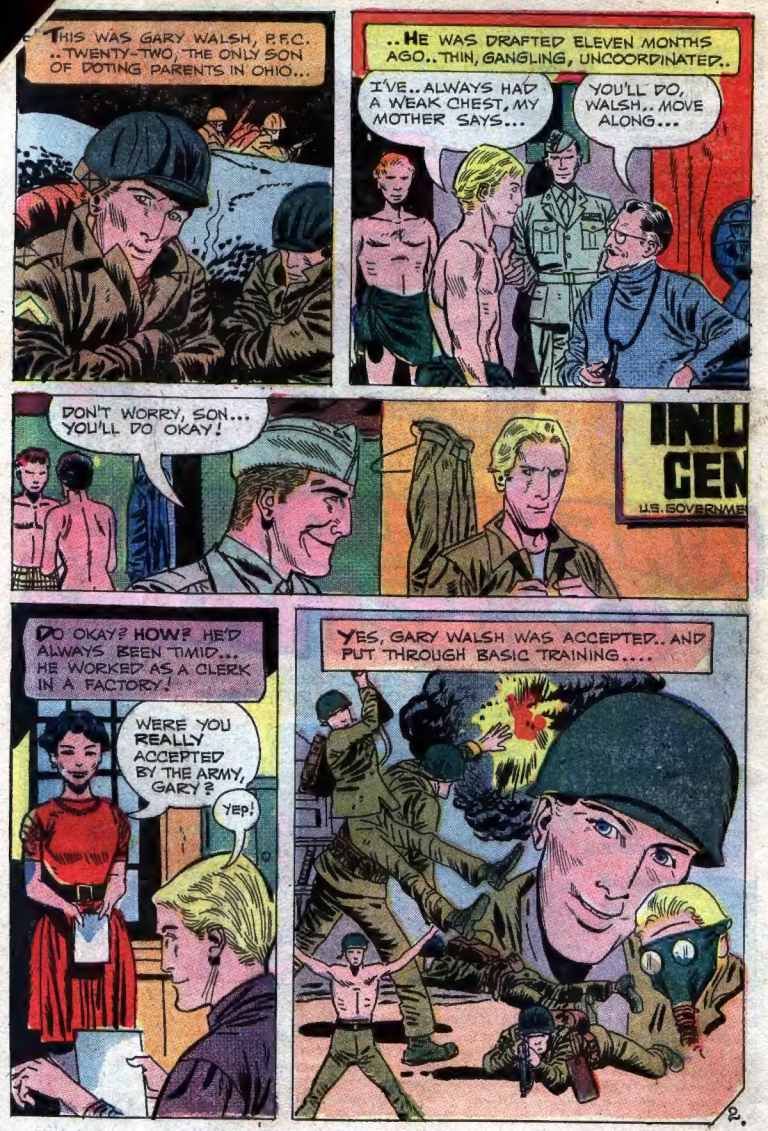

THIS WAS GARY WALSH, P.F.C. ..TWENTY-TWO, THE ONLY SON OF DOTING PARENTS IN OHIO...
..HE WAS DRAFTED ELEVEN MONTHS AGO..THIN, GANGLING, UNCOORDINATED..
I'VE..ALWAYS HAD A WEAK CHEST, MY MOTHER SAYS...
YOU'LL DO, WALSH.. MOVE ALONG...
DON'T WORRY, SON... YOU'LL DO OKAY!
U.S. GOVERNME
DO OKAY? HOW? HE'D ALWAYS BEEN TIMID... HE WORKED AS A CLERK IN A FACTORY!
WERE YOU REALLY ACCEPTED BY THE ARMY, GARY?
YEP!
YES, GARY WALSH WAS ACCEPTED.. AND PUT THROUGH BASIC TRAINING....

NOW, HE WAS HERE..IN KOREA ..HALF FROZEN ..WONDERING IF HE'D HAVE THE GUTS TO BE A REAL SOLDIER!
HEY, WALSH..S-SEE ANYTHING?
NO!
THIS WAS ANOTHER PFC..HE WAS NINETEEN... HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE ARMY!
WIPE THAT SMILE OFF YOUR KISSER, LAUGHIN' BOY!
YES, SIR!
RAY JONES DIDN'T TAKE SOLDIERING SERIOUSLY ..HE WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS, BUT HE WAS STILL A KID WHEN HE REACHED KOREA..NOW..WOULD HE MATURE IN TIME TO DO A MAN'S JOB?
YOU'LL RETRIEVE THAT WEAPON, CLEAN IT, AND BRING IT TO THE FIRST SERGEANT, JONES!
STAY AWAKE, JONESY..THIS AIN'T FUN AND GAMES TIME NOW!
I'LL DO MY JOB, CHUBBY!

HIS WAS SGT. BAYLESS... A GOOF-OFF WHO'D ALWAYS LOOKED FOR EASY REAR-ECHELON ASSIGNMENTS .. NOW CAUGHT UP IN THE UNCARING MACHINERY OF WAR!
IF I DIDN'T GOOF UP AT THE QUARTER-MASTER DEPOT, I'D STILL BE SAFE AND WARM.. NOW, FOR SURE.. I'LL GET CREAMED!
WHAT A LOUSY BREAK .. WE GOT A NERVOUS NELLIE COMMANDING THE PLATOON.. HE'LL HIT THE PANIC BUTTON QUICKER THAN ANY-BODY!
LT. TRANEY GOT HIS COMMISSION THROUGH THE RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS.. THE R.O.T.C. UNIT ON HIS COLLEGE CAMPUS HAD BEEN MORE LIKE A SOCIAL CLUB!
R
I HEARD TRANEY TALKING IN HIS SLEEP LAST NIGHT .. HE KEPT SAYIN' 'MAMA'....
THIS WAS A CROSS-SECTION.. A CIVILIAN ARMY WAITING FOR DAWN AND THE ACID TEST...
HERE THEY COME...

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

커닉!
TATATATA
TATATATAT
IT HAD LOOKED LIKE AN EMPTY VALLEY...
...UNTIL THE FIRST CHICOM BUGLE BLARED..
CLUNGELUU
THEY'LL RUN RIGHT OVER US..WE'LL BE WIPED OUT...
I GOTTA BUG OUT... THIS AIN'T FOR ME...

THIS PLATOON WAS THE POINT.. IF THE CHICOMS ROLLED OVER THESE RAW REPLACEMENTS, THEY'D POUR THROUGH THE GAP AND IT WOULD BE A MAJOR DEFEAT...
SUDDENLY, THE BURNING FEAR IN LT. TRANEY'S GUTS VANISHED. THE NERVOUS, TIMID SECOND JOHN LEAPED FROM HIS FOX-HOLE!
WE AIN'T GOT A CHANCE... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
IF YOU TRY TO BUG OUT.. I'LL SHOOT YOU MYSELF!
TRANEY AMAZED HIMSELF.. HE WAS LIKE A WILD MAN, IGNORING THE SHELLS AND BULLETS... BELLOWING ORDERS AT THE G.I.S!
THAT BAZOOKA WAS DESIGNED FOR TANKS.. NOW START USING IT AND DON'T MISS!
THEY'RE JUST FLESH AND BLOOD LIKE US.. HIT 'EM AND THEY GO DOWN!

I HIT THE COMMIE..THEY BOUNCED OFF THE ARMOR.. BUT THIS ONE WON'T!
THE G.I'S SUDDENLY WERE COOL... THEY AIMED THEIR M1'S AND THE CHICOMS WERE GOING DOWN!
SQUAD LEADERS SEND MEN FOR MORE AMMO! THE COMMIES MAY BE BACK!
WE'LL BE READY FOR THEM, SKIPPER!
IN AN HOUR, THE SLOPE WAS QUIET AGAIN..THERE WERE EMPTY FOXHOLES NOW.. BUT, THE G.I.S WHO LEFT HAD SUDDENLY BECOME SOLDIERS..THEY WERE MEN..AND ONCE MORE IN A TIME OF NEED, AMERICA HAD FOUND THE MEN TO DO THE JOB!
THE END

MEN AT WAR ARE OFTEN CYNICAL ABOUT OFFICIAL CITATIONS AND MEDALS... THEY KNOW THAT SOMETIMES THEY'RE AWARDED TO UNDESERVING BRAGGARTS... AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT REALLY HEROIC DEEDS ARE UNRECOGNIZED AND UNKNOWN! MOST HEROES WOULD LAUGH IN YOUR FACE IF YOU CALLED THEM THAT... ONE OF THESE WAS SGT. ED KENDALL, A VETERAN OF WORLD WAR II RECALLED FOR THE KOREAN WAR... A NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN A RIFLE PLATOON SOMEWHERE NORTH OF SEOUL IN LATE MARCH, 1951!

THE COMMIES BROKE THROUGH, SARGE... LET'S GET OUTA HERE!
YOU CAN'T RUN, DUMMY! FIND A FOXHOLE AND A WEAPON... WE GOTTA STAY RIGHT HERE OR DIE!

GET BATTALION ARTILLERY, FRENCHY! FRENCHY, DAMN YOU... YOU KNOW THE CALL SIGNS... I WANT AN ARTILLERY BARRAGE!
TOO... TOO LATE... CHICOMS ALL AROUND, SARGE!

I KNOW... I WANT THE ARTILLERY BARRAGE RIGHT ON THIS POSITION! OUR GUYS WILL BE IN FOXHOLES... THE COMMIES WON'T!

CPL. JULIAN LAMIRRE, WOUNDED AND WEAK, CALLED BATTALION ARTILLERY AND REQUESTED SATURATION SHELLING OF THE HILL! THE CORPORAL RECEIVED THE SILVER STAR FOR THIS ACTION...
ARTILLERY BARRAGE ...FIND A HOLE AND KEEP DOWN!

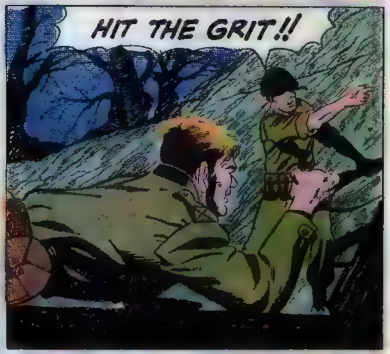
THE COMMUNIST TROOPS TRIED TO TAKE COVER TOO BUT THE FOXHOLES WERE ALREADY TAKEN AND...
BLAM!
WHEN THE BARRAGE STOPPED, THERE WERE ENEMY DEAD LITTERING THE HILL... SOME AMERICANS WERE INJURED IN THE SHELLING BUT MOST SURVIVED!
LAMIRRE SAVED US, SARGE!
YEAH... HE SURE DID.
SACK OUT, BUDDY... IF THE CHICOMS COME AT US, THE SARGE WILL WAKE US UP!
YOU'RE TEMPORARY PLATOON LEADER, KENNEDY! NOW, WHO REQUESTED THAT ARTILLERY BARRAGE? THEY'LL BE A COUPLE MEDALS FOR THAT FIRE FIGHT... YOU GUYS SAVED THE COMPANY!
WELL, FRENCHY LAMIRRE RADIOED BACK TO BATTALION ARTILLERY, CAPTAIN...
... MEGA FOUGHT OFF A COUPLE COMMIES TRYING TO REACH THE M.G.! RASSOVSKY DID PRETTY GOOD AND BLAKE WAS FIGHTIN' HARD!
3

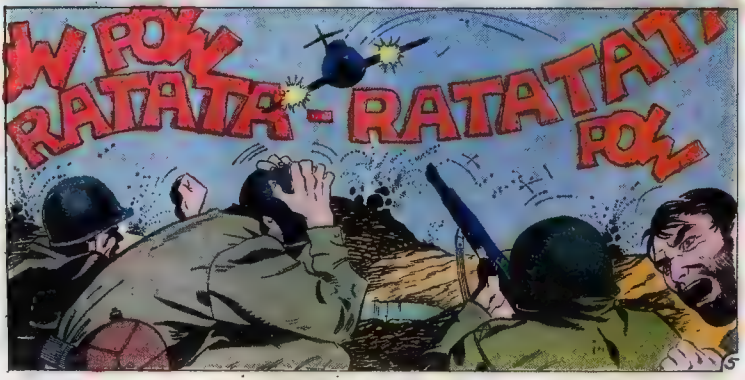
CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

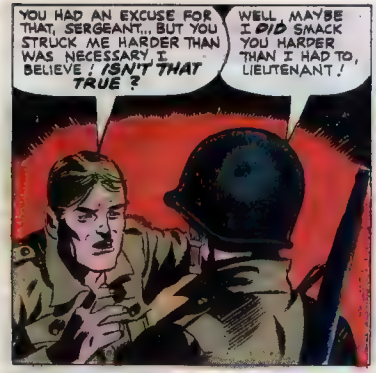
NOBODY ASKED WHAT SGT. ED KENNEDY DID... AND NOBODY TOLD THE CAPTAIN HE HELD THE PLATOON TOGETHER AFTER LT. WILLIAMS WAS WOUNDED AND PASSED OUT!
SERGEANT, THIS PLATOON IS A DISGRACE!
HUH? YEAH, WELL, I GUESS WE'RE A LITTLE SLOPPY.
THAT WILL BE CHANGED, SERGEANT! I'M THE THIRD PLATOON LEADER! I'M LT. SNIDER!
I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY GOT HERE, LIEUTENANT! I'M TIRED AN...
ON YOUR FEET WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR REPORT, SERGEANT!
IS THAT GUY CRAZY? YOU'VE BEEN RUNNIN' THIS PLATOON... EVEN BEFORE LT. WILLIAMS GOT HIT
YEAH, WELL, I'M NOT RUNNIN' IT NOW, THANK GOD! I CAN SACK OUT LIKE THE REST OF YOU JOKERS!
YOU RAN IT!

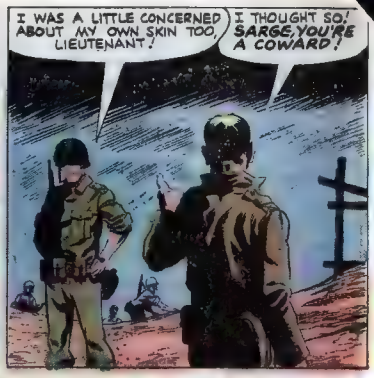
LT. SNIDER HAD NEVER HAD COMBAT COMMAND BEFORE...HE HAD NEVER HEARD A GUN FIRED IN ANGER... BUT HE HAD AUTHORITY AND HE WAS DETERMINED TO USE IT!

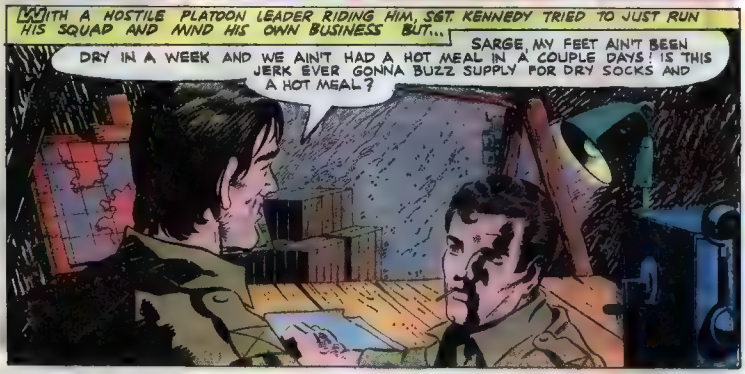
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE ARMY, KENNEDY! YOUR RIFLE IS DIRTY AND YOU'RE FILTHY!
THAT M-1 MIGHT BE MUDDY OUTSIDE, LIEUTENANT, BUT I FIELD-STRIPPED IT LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO!
I'M GOING TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU, SERGEANT!

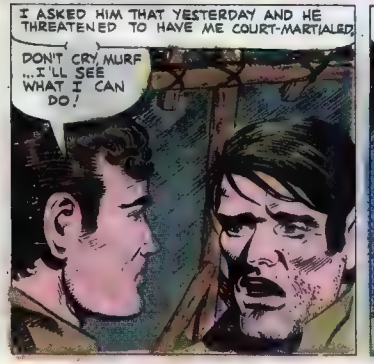





YOU HAD AN EXCUSE FOR THAT, SERGEANT... BUT YOU STRUCK ME HARDER THAN WAS NECESSARY, I BELIEVE! ISN'T THAT TRUE?
WELL MAYBE I DID SMACK YOU HARDER THAN I HAD TO, LIEUTENANT!


I WAS A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT MY OWN SKIN TOO, LIEUTENANT!
I THOUGHT SO! SARGE, YOU'RE A COWARD!


WITH A HOSTILE PLATOON LEADER RIDING HIM, SGT. KENNEDY TRIED TO JUST RUN HIS SQUAD AND MIND HIS OWN BUSINESS BUT...
SARGE, MY FEET AIN'T BEEN DRY IN A WEEK AND WE AIN'T HAD A HOT MEAL IN A COUPLE DAYS! IS THIS JERK EVER GONNA BUZZ SUPPLY FOR DRY SOCKS AND A HOT MEAL?


I ASKED HIM THAT YESTERDAY AND HE THREATENED TO HAVE ME COURT-MARTIALED!
DON'T CRY MURF ...I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!

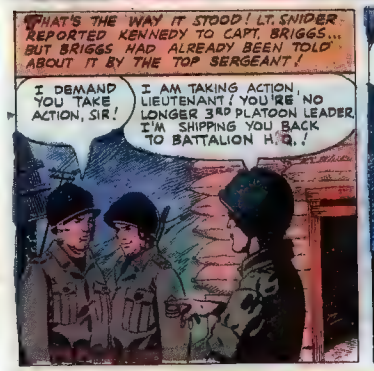
IF LT. SNIDER LOOKS FOR ME AND I'M GONE, HE'LL PROBABLY CHARGE ME WITH DESERTION!
I NEED WHEELS!

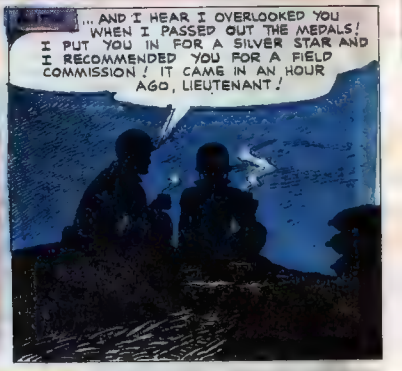
THE N.C.O. KNEW THE ROPES... HE POUND A WEAPONS CARRIER ASSIGNED TO CHARLIE COMPANY... HE JUST 'BORROWED' IT AND HEADED SOUTH TOWARD REGIMENTAL SUPPLY!
FIRST I'LL HIT REGIMENTAL COOK TENT... THEN I'LL ROUST OUT PORKY PORCELLI IN THE QUARTERMASTER SUPPLY!
IT WAS DAYLIGHT WHEN THE N.C.O. GROUND THE WEAPONS CARRIER TO A HALT BACK AT THE HILLTOP...
THE LIEUTENANT AROUND? HE'S ASLEEP IN THE BUNKER, SARGE! WANT HIM?
HECK, NO! JUST TELL THE GUYS I GOT HOT CHOW AND DRY SOCKS!
THE COOKS WERE GLAD TO HELP OUT... THEY KNEW KENNEDY... HIS KIND KEPT THE ARMY FUNCTIONING!
I'LL LET YUH HAVE HAM, EGGS, TOAST, AND ABOUT FIFTY GALLONS OF BEEF STEW IN THERMAL CONTAINERS THAT'LL STAY HOT TILL TONIGHT!
AFTER YA GET THEM SOCKS ON, STOSH, PASS THE WORD TUH CLEAN UP THE GARBAGE... WE DON'T WANT THE LIEUTENANT GETTIN' CURIOUS!

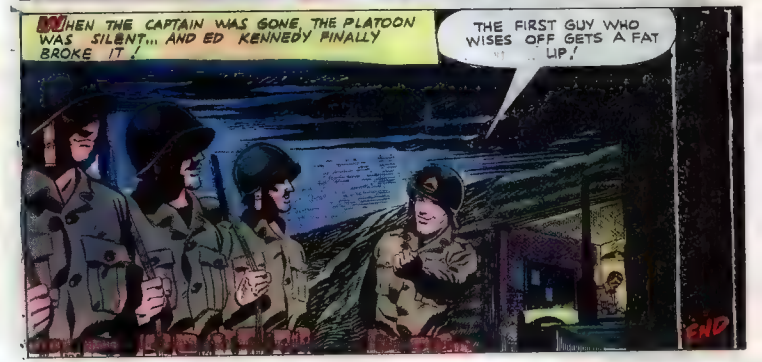
LT. SNIDER KEPT AFTER SGT. KENNEDY... SNIDER MANAGED TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE WHEN THE CHINESE TROOPS ATTACKED...
THEY'RE COMIN' ACROSS THAT RIDGE, BRODSKY!
WHEN THE FIGHTING ENDED, THERE WAS LT. SNIDER...
LET THE MEDICS DO THAT, KENNEDY! WORRY ABOUT PERFORMING YOUR OWN DUTIES ONCE IN A WHILE!
LIEUTENANT, I SURE WISH YOU AND ME WEREN'T IN THE ARMY!
IS THAT A PHYSICAL THREAT, SERGEANT? I ORDERED YOU TO PUT THAT MAN DOWN!
HE'S BLEEDIN' BAD, SIR! I GOTTA GET HIM TO A MEDIC WITH THE PLASMA!
I WARN YOU, SERGEANT, YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS INSOLENCE!
LIEUTENANT, I BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU! I'M NOT NATURALLY A VIOLENT MAN BUT...
FOR YOU, I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION!
OK
8

YOU'LL GO TO PRISON FOR THIS, KENNEDY!
YOU HAD IT COMIN', SNIDER!
THESE MEN ARE MY WITNESSES!

GIBBONS, YOU SAW HIM STRIKE ME! YOU...
I DIDN'T SEE A THING, LIEUTENANT!
NEITHER DID I, SIR! NOBODY IN THE PLATOON SAW SGT. KENNEDY DO ANYTHING OUTA LINE!


THAT'S THE WAY IT STOOD! LT. SNIDER REPORTED KENNEDY TO CAPT. BRIGGS... BUT BRIGGS HAD ALREADY BEEN TOLD ABOUT IT BY THE TOP SERGEANT!
I DEMAND YOU TAKE ACTION, SIR!
I AM TAKING ACTION, LIEUTENANT! YOU'RE NO LONGER 3RD PLATOON LEADER. I'M SHIPPING YOU BACK TO BATTALION H.Q.!


...AND I HEAR I OVERLOOKED YOU WHEN I PASSED OUT THE MEDALS! I PUT YOU IN FOR A SILVER STAR AND I RECOMMENDED YOU FOR A FIELD COMMISSION! IT CAME IN AN HOUR AGO, LIEUTENANT!


WHEN THE CAPTAIN WAS GONE, THE PLATOON WAS SILENT... AND ED KENNEDY FINALLY BROKE IT!
THE FIRST GUY WHO WISES OFF GETS A FAT LIP!
END

For three days we had been fighting the Nazi special troopers. They were determined to get us at any cost. For we had wrecked their defensive measures. Our mission had been to blow up the railroad bridge across the Dantzage River and its connecting link across the valley. They knew our invading forces would soon strike at this rich area. And they were unable to transport their heavy guns to defend the coastal city.

We had no illusion about our situation. We were trapped. True, we had enough ammo, food and water to last us for about a week more. The house we had taken over was literally a little fortress. It was built of ancient thick stones. And even the machine gun bullets of heavy caliber hardly made a dent in the walls. If the Nazis somehow managed to get a heavy gun up the hills or even a tank we were finished.

"You know Major Coopers," grinned Sergeant Bellows. "You started out with five of us. Mission accomplished. Somehow I get a feeling you are going to get us out of here alive."

"Want to make a bet on it?" snapped back Corporal Thompson. "But on second thought, skip it. If I lose it, I won't be around to collect it."

Our two women who owned this house was a young girl of about twenty. And the woman with her was evidently her grandmother. They spoke some kind of a local dialect that we couldn't understand. They fed us and did the best to make us comfortable. But it was also evident we were unwelcome.

For the sixth time the Nazis sent against us a suicide group. Determined to get within range of their hand grenades. And my men picked them off very efficiently.

"If we run out of ammo, all we have to do is to go out on a dark night and take their stuff," said Private Anders. "Now if they only have food and water on them, then we are still o.k."

We missed contact with the Partisan leader," I sighed. "He was going to take us all to the meeting place where the sub is waiting for us."

"Major Coopers," said the young lady in perfect English. "Do not be puzzled by the fact that I haven't spoken a single word to you and your men. My name is Martine and the old lady is my grandmother. I spent five years as a child in the United States. My father was ambassador to your country. And I have taught English in our school here.

I can show you and your men how to escape. But for that you must pay my price. If we remain here, the Nazis will kill us. I have listened carefully to your talk as well as that of your men. You are single. You marry me take me back to the United States, and take care of me and my old grandmother."

To say I was totally startled would be to put it very mildly. One look at the faces of my men and you could see each had just been given a shock. I had to do some fast and clear thinking.

"The safety of my men comes first," I replied. "If that is what you want, you can have it. But I must later return here. So you will not be my wife for a long time. You will probably be my widow. Now show me how we escape."

"The Romans once had a big city here," she explained. "In fact this house which has served as your fortress was built of thick stones taken from ruins. Underneath the floor there is a large tunnel. Once used to conduct water to the city. It goes down to the valley. As a girl I would go through it with my brother. I will take you down into it. But I suggest you blow up this house once we are safely away from it. Thus the enemy will not look in the ruins. They may figure a lucky shot did it. Or that you are preferred to die together."

She got us down into the tunnel and we walked slowly through it. We then found ourselves in the valley below. Give her credit. She found the Partisan leader.

"We travel only during the night," he told me. "The sub is waiting for you."

Three days later a startled submarine commander found he had two extra passengers.

"You will marry the young female to me," I said. "Ask no questions. We go back together."

All this happened thirty years ago. We have been very happily married. We went back once to her home country, since the government wanted to give me a special medal for my work. And next year we are going to take our grandchildren there for a vacation."

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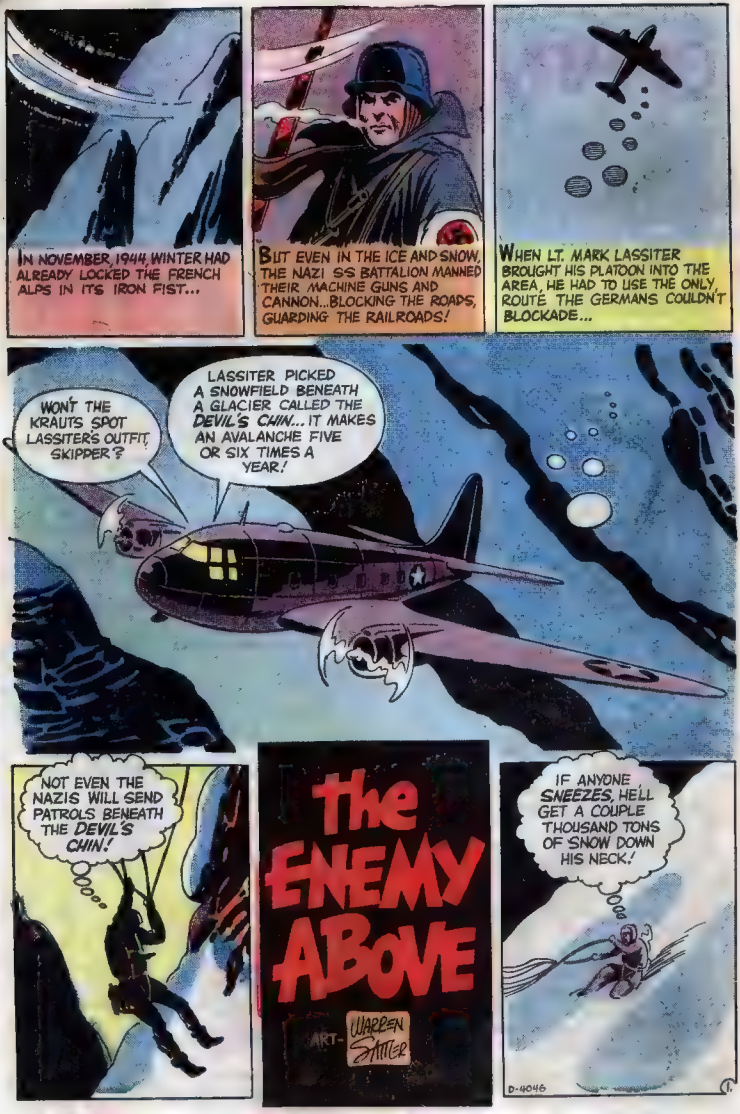
IN NOVEMBER, 1944, WINTER HAD ALREADY LOCKED THE FRENCH ALPS IN ITS IRON FIST...
BUT EVEN IN THE ICE AND SNOW, THE NAZI SS BATTALION MANNED THEIR MACHINE GUNS AND CANNON...BLOCKING THE ROADS, GUARDING THE RAILROADS!
WHEN LT. MARK LASSITER BROUGHT HIS PLATOON INTO THE AREA, HE HAD TO USE THE ONLY ROUTE THE GERMANS COULDN'T BLOCKADE...
WON'T THE KRAUTS SPOT LASSITER'S OUTFIT, SKIPPER?
LASSITER PICKED A SNOWFIELD BENEATH A GLACIER CALLED THE DEVIL'S CHIN... IT MAKES AN AVALANCHE FIVE OR SIX TIMES A YEAR!
NOT EVEN THE NAZIS WILL SEND PATROLS BENEATH THE DEVIL'S CHIN!
The ENEMY ABOVE
ART- WARREN SATTLER
IF ANYONE SNEEZES, HE'LL GET A COUPLE THOUSAND TONS OF SNOW DOWN HIS NECK!
D-4046

ANY CASUALTIES, JIMBO?
SOME BUMPS AN' BRUISES, SKIPPER!
NOBODY DISABLED!
THE EXPLOSIVES LANDED INTACT...
WE'RE IN BUSINESS!
MOVE THE MEN DOWN ACROSS THE SNOWFIELD... TELL THEM TO MOVE SLOW AND EASY... IF THEY START A SLIDE HERE, THEY'LL WIND UP A MILE DOWN THE MOUNTAIN.
MEANWHILE, IN THE ALPINE VILLAGE, FRENCH AND NAZIS ALIKE WERE HUDDLED IN-DOORS, AWAY FROM THE MINUS 10 DEGREE COLD!
THE AMERIKANER SCHWEIN WILL NOT ATTACK IN THIS ACCURSED WEATHER!
THE SIGNS ARE ALL THERE, HERR OBERSTGAULETIER!
THERE HAS BEEN SNOW ON THE PEAKS SINCE SEPTEMBER! I MYSELF SAW THE DEVIL'S CHIN TREMBLING... SOON THE AVALANCHE WILL COME!
NOWSENSE, MAN! AND IF THE AVALANCHE COMES, A FEW HOUSES WILL BE SWEPT AWAY!
BUT NO LIVES WILL BE LOST IF YOU PERMIT US TO EVACUATE THE VILLAGE AS WE USUALLY DO!

DO YOU THINK I WOULD REMAIN HERE WITH MY BELOVED YOUNG BRIDE IF I THOUGHT THERE WERE REAL DANGER, MY FRIEND?
I WISH I HAD YOUR CONFIDENCE, COLONEL...
AS THEY TALKED, THE DEVIL'S CHIN TREMBLED SLIGHTLY... A BEARD OF SNOW BLEW... AND THOUSANDS OF TONS OF SNOW STAYED PRECARIOUSLY IN PLACE ABOVE THE VILLAGE!
TELL THEM TO MOVE SLOWLY, SGT. ...NO ONE SHOUT NO ONE FIRE A GUN!
THERE'S EVEN MORE SNOW UP THERE THAN THE PHOTOS SHOWED! IT'S CRITICAL RIGHT NOW!
QUESTION, JIMBO...
WOULD YOU DYNAMITE A NAZI TRAIN...IF YOU KNEW THE EXPLOSION WOULD BURY A VILLAGE FULL OF PEOPLE?
5.

JIMBO... YOU'VE STUDIED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS... SCOUT THE TOWN... LOCATE TROOP QUARTERS, AMMUNITION STORAGE DEPOTS, IF POSSIBLE... AND ARMORED VEHICLES!
LASSITER'S PLATOON OF MOUNTAIN-TRAINED INFANTRYMEN MOVED LIKE WHITE GHOSTS DOWN TOWARD THE TOWN!
S/SGT. JAMES D. LIDDINGS LEFT HIS THOMPSON SUB-MACHINE GUN AND MOVED INTO THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE...
THERE'S HENRI VICHET'S HOUSE...
THAT'S WHERE OBERSTGAULETIER HEINSCHLER ESTABLISHED HIS HEADQUARTERS...
THERE HE IS!
THERE'S A WOMAN!
SHE COULD BE HIS WIFE!
THE VILLAGERS OF STE. JEANNE HAD THEIR OWN AVALANCHE WATCH... A POWERFUL TELESCOPE FOCUSED ON THE DEVIL'S CHIN.
MON DIEU!
THE SNOW MASS MOVED JUST THEN!
IF IT MOVES AGAIN, I WILL SOUND THE ALARM!

I DON'T WANT ANY OF YOU GETTING TRIGGER-HAPPY! I'M LESS WORRIED ABOUT THE GERMANS THAN I AM ALL THAT SNOW UP THERE!
ONE SHOT COULD START AN AVALANCHE!
OBERSTGAULETIER HEINSCHLER WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY TOO...
MAGDA, I AM GOING TO SEND YOU BY CAR DOWN TO PLANCHET! I AM WORRIED BY MONSIEUR VICHET'S WARNING!
NO, WERNER... I WILL STAY WITH YOU NO MATTER WHAT!
I REPEAT, MOELLER... INSTRUCT THE MEN TO BE QUIET... DO NOT DISCHARGE ANY WEAPON... OR RUN CAR OR TANK ENGINES TOO LOUD!
AS THE SUN CRAWLED ABOVE THE TOWERING ALPINE PEAKS A STRANGE SILENCE SPREAD ACROSS THE VALLEY...
OUI... THE DEVIL'S CHIN IS MOVING!
PAULETTE, DRESS THE CHILDREN... WE ARE GOING DOWN TO MY BROTHER'S HOUSE!

THE VILLAGERS DID NOT PANIC...THEY MOVED IN AN ORDERLY FASHION...CALLING SOFTLY TO EACH OTHER AS THEY BEGAN WALKING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ROAD TO PLANCHET...

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

...AND THEY'RE MOVING DOWN THE VALLEY!
I'VE BEEN WATCHING THE DEVIL'S CHIN, JIMBO! WE'RE GOING TO MOVE OVER TO THAT RIDGE...OUT OF THE AVALANCHE PATH!

THE PLATOON MOVED CAUTIOUSLY ACROSS THE SNOWFIELD...AND AS THEY DID, GERMAN INFANTRYMEN WERE MOVING FROM THE OTHER SIDE...
DO NOT MOVE LIEUTENANT!
YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE OUR PRISONERS!

YOU WON'T FIRE, KAPITAN, AND NEITHER WILL I.' ONE SHOT WILL BRING THE MOUNTAIN DOWN ON US!
THAT DOES NOT CONCERN US! WE ARE OUT OF THE PATH OF THE AVALANCHE!

WHEN IT CAME, IT WAS FROM A STUPID INCIDENT...A SENTRY, CHECKING HIS RIFLE, NEGLECTED TO PUT ON THE SAFETY...
CLIK!

BLAM

LISTEN

RUMBLE!
RUMBLE!

IT CAME SLOWLY AT FIRST...THEN SWIFTLY INTO A ROAR THAT SHOOK THE GREAT MOUNTAINS...
MEIN GOTT!
THE KOMMANDANT AND HIS WIFE ARE STILL IN THE VILLAGE!
THE AVALANCHE WASHED DOWN THE VALLEY AND THEN...
THIS IS A TERRIBLE THING! WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE INSIDE THOSE HOUSES!
LOOK, FRITZ...OUR WAR CAN WAIT...LET'S GET BUSY AND DIG THOSE PEOPLE OUT!
DIG FASTER, KRAUT... I HEAR A BABY CRYING DOWN THERE!
JAH! EIN KINDER!
THEN REACHED THE VICTIMS QUICKLY...
AMERIKANER RESCUERS?
WHEN IT ENDED AND THE INJURED PEOPLE HAD BEEN TREATED...
THE KOMMANDANT HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM THIS VILLAGE, LIEUTENANT! I HOPE YOU REMAIN HERE A LONG TIME...IT IS A VERY PLEASANT PLACE TO BE DURING A WAR!
I THINK SO TOO, KAPITAN! SO LONG... I HOPE WE NEVER MEET AGAIN!
THE END